

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 17, 21 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Valent. Claims 17 and 21 have been amended to recite position offset information that is determined before being stored on a dedicated track. Figures 9A and 9B and the corresponding text found on cols. 8 and 9 of the Applicant's patent disclose the concept of determining position offset information and then storing that information on a dedicated track. During the power on process, the read element of the head is centered with the dedicated track to read the previously determined offset information (see fig. 10B and col. 9 of the patent).

Valent discloses a boot-up technique where a head is moved to a calibration track to determine offset information. The offset information is calculated from the calibration bits stored on the dedicated track. The offset information is not previously determined and stored on the track as recited in the claims. The offset information in Valent is calculated after reading the dedicated track, not before as recited in the claims of the above entitled application. Computing the information after reading the dedicated track lengthens the boot-up process of the drive. Merely storing the offset values of the drive as disclosed in the Applicant's '343 patent reduces the time and effort required to obtain such values. Valent does not disclose position offset information stored on a centerline of dedicated track wherein the position offset information is determined before being stored. For this reason, the Applicant submits that Valent does not anticipate claims 17, 21, and 33-34.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 17, 21, and 33-34 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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